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in the first picture is perhaps Father le Clercq himself, as Professor Ganong suggests.

The famous "Micmac hieroglyphs" are discussed on pages 21-32, and the modern characters now in use are shown to be identical with those of the Abbé Maillard (middle of the eighteenth century). Professor Ganong gives good reasons for believing that Abbé Maillard adapted and improved upon the system of Father le Clercq, which he found still in use, and was not, as has been generally supposed, the inventor of these curious "hieroglyphics". The characters on the tablet in the picture just referred to seem to settle this point.

The question of the "worship of the cross", attributed by Father le Clercq to the Indians of Miramichi, is also discussed by Professor Ganong, who reaches the entirely reasonable conclusion (p. 40) that we have here "a sub-tribal totem sign, originally the conventionalized figure of some animal, later modified, whether consciously or deliberately, under the influence of Christian teachings". Professor Ganong is quite right in rejecting (p. 180) the etymologies so far offered for "Miramichi", though it may be a mistake to regard the word as non-Indian altogether. The suggestion, made in a foot-note to page 123, that the making of maple sugar, though of Indian origin, is not prehistoric but began about 1675, is worth considering. Altogether, Professor Ganong may be said to have done his work as editor well and to have added something new to the literature of the matters dealt with.

ALEXANDER F. CHAMBERLAIN.

A Documentary History of American Industrial Society. Edited by JOHN R. COMMONS, ULRICH B. PHILLIPS, EUGENE A. GILMORE, HELEN L. SUMNER, and JOHN B. ANDREWS. Prepared under the auspices of the American Bureau of Industrial Research, with the co-operation of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. With preface by RICHARD T. ELY and introduction by JOHN B. CLARK. Volumes V. and VI. *Labor Movement, 1820-1840.* (Cleveland, Ohio: The Arthur H. Clark Company. 1910. Pp. 392; 353.)

THESE two volumes of the *Documentary History of American Industrial Society* cover a highly interesting period in the history of the American labor movement. All the works on American labor history, as well as the general historical works dealing with the period, give brief accounts of a labor movement from 1827 to 1837, but our knowledge of this movement has hitherto been of the scantiest kind. The present work makes available important sources of information which have been hitherto almost entirely unexploited. The sources thus drawn upon are chiefly the newspapers published during the period in the interest of the organized laborers—e. g., *The Man*, the *National Laborer*, and the *National Trades' Union*. These newspapers were edited by the labor leaders of the time and contain a fund of news concerning the move-

ment. Naturally, there are many gaps in material of this character but the editors by diligent and wide search have been able to piece together a comprehensive and highly satisfactory account.

The new material thus assembled throws much light on the aims of the movement. Our information on this point has heretofore been confined practically to bare lists of the demands formulated by the workingmen's conventions. By the aid of the documents here presented it is possible to weigh the relative importance of these demands in the minds of the workingmen of the period. It becomes clear, for instance, that the demand for education at public cost was more persistently pressed and probably exerted a greater influence on the establishment of free schools than has been supposed. Also, the complicated political workingmen's movements in New York in 1829-1831, which have heretofore baffled explanation, become intelligible.

More important still is the revelation of the character of the organization which stood behind the movement of 1833-1837. The proceedings of the Philadelphia, New York, and other trades unions show a degree and extent of organization hitherto unsuspected. The excerpts from *The Man* and the *National Trades' Union* here printed contain the constitution and the greater part of the minutes of the New York General Trades Union from 1833 to 1836. This body, composed at the height of its strength of delegates from a large number of trade societies, levied taxes upon its constituent societies; authorized strikes of individual societies for the redress of various grievances, and supported these strikes from its treasury. Similar but less detailed information is given concerning the Philadelphia and other trades unions. The proceedings of the National Trades Union, composed of local trades unions, which existed from 1834 to 1837, and which has hitherto been little more than a name in the history of the American labor movement, have been rescued from buried newspaper files and reprinted in great fullness.

To the student of the evolution of trade unionism, the present volumes are of the highest interest since the period from 1827 to 1837 is shown to be characterized by the dominance of a form of trades-union organization—the central labor union or as it was then known the trades union, or union of trade societies in a city—which has since occupied a subordinate place in the organization of labor. The editors make out a strong case for their contention that the trades-union form of organization was developed at least as early in the United States as in England. In any event it is clear that at no time in England has the trades-union movement been centred so largely about the central labor union as it was in the United States from 1833 to 1837.

The documents are arranged into groups according as they relate to various organizations, *e. g.*, Mechanics Union of Trade Association and the Philadelphia Political Movement, the National Trades Union, etc., and to each group is prefixed a brief but adequate introduction. In addition, there is a general introduction to the two volumes in which the causes of the movement are discussed. The volumes unquestionably

make a permanently important contribution to the history of the labor movement in the United States.

GEORGE E. BARNETT.

The Diary of James K. Polk during his Presidency, 1845 to 1849.

Now first printed from the original manuscript in the collections of the Chicago Historical Society. Edited and annotated by MILO MILTON QUAIFFE, Assistant Professor in the Lewis Institute of Technology, with an introduction by ANDREW CUNNINGHAM McLAUGHLIN, Head of the Department of History of the University of Chicago. In four volumes. (Chicago: A. C. McClurg and Company. 1910. Pp. xxxii, 498; 494; 508; 462.)

THE voluminous diary of President Polk owed its origin, we are told, to "a very important conversation" between Polk and his Secretary of State, Buchanan, at a Cabinet meeting August 26, 1845, on the Oregon question. Polk insisted upon the line $54^{\circ} 40'$, while Buchanan was equally strenuous for the line 49° . Buchanan was overruled, but the despatch which he was obliged to write to Pakenham was magnanimously characterized by Polk as "admirable". So important did Polk regard the incident that he forthwith wrote out an account of it for future reference, and thereafter, until June 2, 1849, two weeks before his death, kept a daily record of his public life. It is in every way an extraordinary record and an historical document of the utmost importance. That Polk could find time or strength, in the momentous years of his presidency, to set down such full and detailed accounts of his varied occupations, testifies to rare persistence and strength of will.

Only an extended review could possibly take account of all the notable matters to which the diary refers, or enumerate the controversies on which it sheds light. Of no other administration, save that of John Quincy Adams, have we so full a record from the President's standpoint. Here is unfolded, for example, the history of a cabinet during nearly four eventful years; and Cabinet proceedings, even in these days of newspaper publicity, are a little known part of American history. Polk was the undoubted ruler of his Cabinet; and though he consulted his advisers on all occasions, he enunciated his own views with distinctness, insisted upon obedience, and had his own way in the end. Towards the end of his term, he tells us (September 23, 1848), he had so far familiarized himself with departmental details as to need advice only on "a great measure or a new question"; and he never called for opinions in writing, believing that harmony was best insured when members talked face to face. He was impatient of delay or inefficiency in departmental business, and more than once called his Cabinet sharply to account; the War Department particularly was in bad condition, and the State Department a source of annoying political leakage and covert opposition. He did not have an entirely harmonious political family of course, and had at times to suffer something strongly suggestive of disrespect; but